UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.27
10 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 13. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs

Discussion

1. At its 32nd and 33rd meetings on 1 and 3 June, the Committee considered section 13 of the proposed programme budget of the biennium 1992-1993.

2. Some delegations stressed the importance of the work carried out by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and noted that it provided a global perspective and an integrated approach to economic and social development issues. They also noted that the Department provided important services to various intergovernmental bodies and reaffirmed the need for concise and analytical reports.

3. Some delegations emphasized that the Committee should be informed of any programmatic changes that might result from the ongoing process of reform of

the economic and social sectors. Such reforms might have implications for the work of the Department. An example was the General Assembly's decision at its resumed forty-fifth session that the Economic and Social Council would hold its sessions in alternate years in New York and Geneva, a decision which might affect the resources for travel of the Department.

4. A number of delegations expressed satisfaction with the proposed redeployment of resources from executive direction and management and from programme support to the substantive programmes.

5. With regard to the programme on global development issues and policies, a number of delegations pointed out that studies on the political changes in East-West relations should include economic aspects and should also address the overall implications of those changes for developing countries and the world economy.

6. Some delegations mentioned the need for collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa on the preparation of the system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery.

7. A number of delegations stressed the importance of the energy and natural resources programme and suggested that it should receive a greater share of the requested resources.

8. Some delegations took note of the fact that the non-recurrent resources proposed for the population programme were for the preparations of an international meeting on population to be convened in 1994 and that the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee, which met earlier in 1991, would be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its second regular session. The Committee was informed that two trust funds had been established for the convening of the international meeting, one for general contributions and one specifically for the participation of least developed countries, and that more specific information would be made available to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Some delegations noted that the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities had been appointed Secretary-General of the proposed meeting and that the Director of the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs had been appointed Deputy Secretary-General.

9. Some delegations noted that the large proportion of extrabudgetary resources for activities in the statistics programme was due to the operational activities carried out on behalf of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development. A number of delegations emphasized the need for strengthening DIESA activities in the field of environmental statistics.

10. A number of delegations stressed the importance of designating priorities, ensuring, at the same time, that the priority designation of activities funded by extrabudgetary resources reflected the priorities accorded by the General Assembly in the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee expressed support for the work of the Department carried out under section 13 of the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993 and recommended the following specific revisions to the programme narrative:

(a) Paragraph 13.13: in the sixth line, insert the words "economic and" before the word "political";

(b) Paragraph 13.13: in the seventh line, after the words "East-West relations" insert the words "as well as their impact on the growth of the world economy, in particular, on the economic growth and development of the developing countries, as well as on international cooperation".

(c) Paragraph 13.14: in the first line, insert after the words "resources to" the words "and from".

12. The Committee also recommended that the low priority designation should be deleted from the list of parliamentary documentation under subprogramme 3 of the energy and natural resources programme, and from the list of published material under subprogramme 3 of the population programme.

13. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 13 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.